

**Introduced by Senator Ashburn**

February 24, 2006

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An act relating to spaceports, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1671, as introduced, Ashburn. Spaceports: Mojave Spaceport.

Existing law authorizes any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, or private entity to apply for designation as a spaceport and authorizes the California Spaceport Authority to designate spaceports for the operation of launch sites or reentry sites. Existing law provides for the establishment of airport districts having responsibility for the development of airports, spaceports, and air navigation facilities, but prohibits an airport district from exercising any authority for the development of spaceports unless it has been designated as a spaceport. Existing law establishes a unit within the Department of Transportation known as the Spaceport Office, with the primary responsibility to seek and obtain federal funding for the commercialization of private space activities in the state. The Bergeson-Peace Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Act establishes the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, and authorizes the infrastructure bank to enter into a loan agreement, as defined, with a participating party, as defined, for financing certain projects and facilities.

This bill would appropriate \$11 million from the General Fund to the Department of Transportation for purposes of a 30-year loan to the East Kern Airport District to construct the Mojave Spaceport Terminal and for associated infrastructure to support advanced research and development along with commercial operations. The bill would authorize the department to arrange for the loan to be accomplished

pursuant to a loan agreement administered by the infrastructure bank. The loan is required to be for a period of 30 years, with repayment to begin one month following the initial occupancy of the first tenant of the terminal.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2     following:  
3     (a) In order to build upon the recent advances in aerospace and  
4     space flight technologies demonstrated at the Mojave Spaceport,  
5     it is critical that the state aid in the development of space travel  
6     related infrastructure.  
7     (b) Nine independent firms are currently engaged in  
8     space-related technology exploration and flight development at  
9     the Mojave Spaceport.  
10    (c) Common use infrastructure and facilities are required to  
11    retain and attract industry at the Mojave Spaceport, as well as  
12    private aerospace investments, all yielding jobs for the state.  
13    SEC. 2. The sum of eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) is  
14    hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
15    Transportation, to lend to the East Kern Airport District to  
16    construct the Mojave Spaceport Terminal and for associated  
17    infrastructure to support advanced research and development  
18    along with commercial operations. The department may arrange  
19    for the loan to be accomplished pursuant to a loan agreement  
20    administered by the California Infrastructure and Economic  
21    Development Bank. The loan shall be for a period of thirty (30)  
22    years, with repayment to begin one month following the initial  
23    occupancy of the first tenant of the terminal.